



From I-75 travel  
north towards  
Chattanooga,  
take Cleveland exit 20  
From Knoxville,  
take I-75 south  
and take Calhoun exit 36

Hiwassee and  
Ocoee Rivers



Tennessee Department of Environment and  
Conservation authorization no. 32752, 10,000  
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#### Hours of Operation:

Office: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 7 days a week. Park closes at 10:00 p.m.

#### For Further Information, Contact:

Hiwassee State Scenic River & Ocoee River Recreation Area  
Spring Creek Road/P.O. Box 5 / Delano, TN 37325 / (423) 263-0050

#### Or Contact:

Tennessee State Parks / 401 Church St., 7th Floor / Nashville, TN 37243  
Phone (888) 867-2757 / [www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com)

# TENNESSEE STATE PARKS HIWASSEE AND OCOEE RIVERS RECREATION AREAS







## Hiwassee State Scenic River & Ocoee River Recreation Area

These internationally-recognized white water sites are well known for their scenic beauty and recreational opportunities. The Ocoee was the site of the canoe and kayak slalom races for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. This park offers many opportunities for the outdoor enthusiasts from rafting along the Ocoee to enjoying fishing for trout in the Hiwassee River.

### Historical significance

The Hiwassee River, included in the Tennessee Scenic River System, extends from the North Carolina line and turns west into Tennessee. This river, named after a Cherokee word meaning "a meadow place at the foot of the hills," drains over 750,000 acres of mostly forested land.

### Camping

Gee Creek Campground, located at the Hiwassee Scenic River site, has 47 primitive campsites all with tables, fire rings, grills, amphitheater with electricity, horseshoe pits and volley ball court. A public water supply, and a bathhouse with hot showers serves the area. A large overflow camping area is also available. Additional campgrounds are available on the Ocoee River operated by the U.S. Forest Service.

### Boating

Floating, canoeing and rafting constitute the major attraction for both the Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers. Based on the International Scale of River Difficulty, the rivers have Class I, II, III, IV and V rapids. While both locations are exceptional white water settings, users should be aware that even placid looking streams are potentially hazardous for those unskilled and unfamiliar with the basic techniques of floating or water safety. Coast guard approved, minimal type 3, life jackets are required for all recreational activities along the stream bed in the Ocoee and type 2 or 3 are required for boating/floating activities on the Hiwassee. Paddlers on the Ocoee River should be 12 years of age, alcoholic beverages are prohibited and glass bottles, aluminum cans and styrofoam are prohibited on both rivers. The Hiwassee River flows through both private and public lands and permission must be obtained prior to entry for any purpose.

### Fishing

The Hiwassee, known as a popular trout stream, also offers anglers fine catches of bass, yellow perch, catfish, brown and rainbow trout. A 3 mile stretch of the Hiwassee River from Big Ben parking area to Reliance offers trophy-sized trout. There is a 2 fish, 14 inch-size limit and artificial lures are only allowed on this section.

### Hiking

Many miles of foot and horse trails meander through the Hiwassee and Ocoee areas and Cherokee National Forest. The John Muir State Scenic Trail also crosses this region.

### Planned Programs

Planned interpretative activities are offered year round. Contact the park office for more information.

### Picnic Areas

Picnic areas are equipped with tables and grills and are located along the Hiwassee and Ocoee rivers. They are operated by state and federal agencies.

